



FOIA request for radiological cleanup presentations/correspondence

Douglas Guarino

to:

FOIA HQ

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From: Douglas Guarino <dguarino@nationaljournal.com>

To: FOIA HQ@EPA

Dear EPA FOIA Officer:

I am seeking, under the Freedom Of Information Act, any and all presentations to and correspondence with outside organizations regarding optimization, late phase cleanup and disposal of radiological material), after a dirty bomb, improvised nuclear device or nuclear power plant incident such as Fukushima generated by EPA, including by staff of any of the following EPA offices since May 17, 2013: The Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI), the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA) and the Office of Water (OW).

Please note that I am submitting this request via email due to problems accessing my online FOIA account.

I would, if possible, like to receive these documents in a searchable, electronic format. If that is not possible, I will accept these items in a non-searchable, electronic format. If that also is not possible, I will accept them on paper. I would also prefer that all other communications regarding this request -- such as acknowledgments of receipt, granting of fee waiver requests, transmitting of responsive documents, etc. -- to be conducted electronically if possible.

I am a journalist, seeking a waiver of fees for these records. In an effort to expedite EPA's response to my request I am addressing in this message the six factors for a waiver of FOIA fees that I have been asked to address in response to previous, similar requests, below (numbered to mirror the order the factors were listed in previous letters) to outline why such a waiver is warranted.

1. The records I am requesting specifically concern identifiable operations or activities of the government -- EPA's approach to dealing with the aftermath of a nuclear or radiological incident.
2. The material is "likely to contribute" to the public's understanding of EPA's work because it will shed light on what procedures on how EPA would respond to such an incident.
3. The material does contribute to the understanding of the public at large and not just a narrow segment, because a dirty bomb or improvised nuclear device could be detonated virtually anywhere, meaning anyone could be affected. In addition, all citizens who pay federal taxes are entitled to know how their tax dollars are spent. Furthermore, I will use the provided information in a news article that will be published on a free news website with national distribution.

4. The disclosure will contribute "significantly" to public understanding of government operations or activities because EPA would likely be involved with responding to a nuclear emergency in any location. I will disseminate this information broadly in a news article that will be published on a free news website with national distribution.

5. I have no commercial interest that will be served by the disclosure. I am a journalist who wants the material for a news article, which I am writing upon my discretion for the publication I work for, and I am not receiving outside payment.

6. The identified public interest above greatly outweighs my own personal benefit because the public has a right to know how EPA would recommend responding to and cleaning up after a nuclear disaster. I personally have nothing to gain from the information, but want to share it with the public in the form of a news article.

I hope that these statements provide sufficient information to obtain a fee waiver under FOIA. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Thanks.

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